

# *Iowa Outdoors*

## **Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

**www.iowadnr.gov**

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**March 10, 2009**

1. Does Lead Iowa Deer Harvest for Fourth Consecutive Year
2. Avoid Boating on Swollen Rivers
3. Natural Resource Commission Adds Five Items, Modifies One on March 12 Meeting Agenda
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### **DOES LEAD IOWA DEER HARVEST FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

CHARITON - Deer hunters reported harvesting 142,194 deer in Iowa during the 2008-09 hunting seasons, which is 4,020 deer fewer than in the 2007-08 seasons. The majority of the decrease was due to fewer antlered bucks and buck fawns in the reported harvest.

“We are starting to see the harvest reflect what we have been seeing in our deer herd analyses, that the number of deer across the majority of Iowa has declined,” said Tom Litchfield, state deer biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “Hunters have been great at responding to the need to harvest more does in areas where deer numbers are still above objectives.”

Statewide, deer populations have been reduced an estimated 25 percent. In some Wildlife Management Units, populations have been reduced substantially more and deer numbers may even be below desired levels in some localized areas, mainly in northwest and north central Iowa.

For the fourth consecutive year, the reported doe harvest outnumbered the buck harvest, this year by 53 percent to 47 percent. Overall, 74,758 does were taken, compared to 51,710 antlered bucks and 15,726 button bucks.

Litchfield said the deer harvest was actually higher than the reported harvest because the estimated compliance with the reporting requirement was 86 percent, based on calculations from field sampling. Factoring in those non-reported deer, the estimated harvest for 2008-09 is 165,350.

The reported deer harvest is available by county on-line at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), then click on Hunting and Wildlife, then on Harvest by County under the Deer Information section in the navigation bar on the left.

**Media Contact: Tom Litchfield, state deer biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 641-774-2958.**

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## **AVOID BOATING ON SWOLLEN RIVERS**

DES MOINES - A combination of steady late winter rains and still frozen ground that cannot absorb the rainfall has sent many central and southeast Iowa rivers out of its banks. For anglers who have already been boating on rivers searching for early season walleyes and catfish, state officials recommend that they allow these swollen rivers to fall back to more seasonal flows before launching their boat back on the water.

"Give these rivers time and they will be back to normal levels fairly quickly once the rain stops," said Susan Stocker, boating safety coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "I know spring fever is rampant right now, but the risk from boating on rivers at flood stage this early in March is simply not worth it."

Stocker said obstacles in rivers can change drastically over the winter and combined with near freezing water temperatures, these early season outings can be even more dangerous.

"Streams are often muddy after spring rains wash in all kinds of stuff from crop fields, and city streets and parking lots making it difficult to see downed trees or rocks that can cause a boat to capsize," she said. "People forget that it is still technically winter and there is the possibility of ice chunks and ice jams moving downstream. My best advice is to stay off these rivers until conditions improve."

Stocker said if the boating itch is too strong to ignore, there are a number of things boaters can do to prepare for the season without getting on the water.

"Go through your safety equipment. Make sure the lifejackets are in good condition and that the fire extinguisher is full. Check your lights, horn and other equipment so when the time does come, you are ready to hit the water safely," Stocker said.

The Iowa DNR has a boating safety handbook on-line at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov), then click on Safety Education in the navigation bar on the left, then on the Boating Safety/Education link.

**Media Contact: Susan Stocker, boating safety coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-281-0122.**

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## **NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION ADDS FIVE ITEMS, MODIFIES ONE ON MARCH 12 MEETING AGENDA**

HAMPTON – The Natural Resource Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will meet at 8:30 a.m., March 12, at the Maynes Grove Four Seasons Lodge, 946 Hwy. 65, south of Hampton.

Commission and DNR staff will meet at 1 p.m., March 11, at Lake Cornelia Park main parking lot, 1768 O'Brien Avenue, five miles northeast of Clarion, for a local tour.

Members of the commission are Kim Francisco, Elizabeth Garst, Carol Kramer, Gregory Drees, Janelle Rettig, William Bird and Tammi Kircher. The Director of the DNR is Richard Leopold.

The following is the agenda for the March meeting.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of Feb. 12 Meeting
- Director's Remarks
- Construction Projects
  - Bloody Run and Sny Magill, Allamakee and Clayton Counties – Trout Habitat Improvement
  - Waterloo Creek, Allamakee County – Trout Stream Habitat
  - Lake Darling State Park, Washington County – Six Sediment Ponds
  - Lake Darling State Park, Washington County – Culvert Risers
- Land Acquisition Projects
  - Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County – Dale and JoAnn Fisher
  - Muskrat Slough Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Jones County – Matthew McQuillen
  - Kellerton Bird Conservation Area, Ringgold County – John and Marilyn Besh
  - Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area, Monona County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Land Management Projects
  - Management Agreement – Green Island WMA – Roger Keil
  - Grant of Easements – Missouri River – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Conservation and Recreation Division Budget
- Donations
- Chapter 40 – Boating Speed and Distance Zoning – Petition for Rulemaking
- Chapter 78 – Ginseng Harvesting and Sale – Emergency Filing After Notice
- Chapter 8 – Contracts for Public Improvements and Professional Services – Emergency Filing
- Chapter 61 – State Parks and Recreation Areas – Final Rule: Swimming Outside of Designated Area
- Chapter 61 – State Parks and Recreation Areas – Final Rule: Cabins and Camping
- Chapter 52 – Wildlife Refuges: Notice of Intended Action
- Chapter 91 – Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons: Notice of Intended Action
- Chapter 94 – Nonresident Deer Hunting
- Chapter 95 – Game Harvest Reporting and Landowner-Tenant Registration: Notice of Intended Action
- Chapter 99 – Wild Turkey Fall Hunting: Notice of Intended Action
- Chapter 106 – Deer Hunting by Residents: Notice of Intended Action

- Natural Resource Based Business Opportunities Grant Program
- Fish Habitat Promotion with Local Entities Program Grant Review
- Honey Creek Resort State Park Monthly Update
- Election of NRC Officers Process
- Chapter 108 – Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons: Notice of Intended Action
- Chapter 110 – Trapping Limitations: Notice of Intended Action
- Chapter 51 – Game Management Areas: Notice of Intended Action
- Waterfowl Survey Contract
- Land Acquisition Project – Brushy Creek State Recreation Area: Webster County – Washington Township, Blanchard Cemetery
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Meeting, April 9, in Story County

**For more information, contact Melissa Speed, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 515-281-8650.**

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## **FOLLOW DNR NEWS ON TWITTER**

Twitter is an online service that sends news updates via e-mail or cell phone in the form of short “Tweets,” which are no longer than 140 characters each. The service is available for Iowa DNR items like the newest fishing report, upcoming events, important meeting dates and times, camping information, workshops and more.

To set up a free account, visit [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and click on the “get started – Join!” button. Be sure to visit the DNR at [www.twitter.com/iowadnr](http://www.twitter.com/iowadnr) and click the “follow” button under the DNR logo to start receiving the feed immediately.

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